

A SHIP CANAL ACROSS FLORIDA

F. P. FLEMING IN THE TRADESMAN

The saving of approximately 500 miles of travel and navigation through the straits and around the Florida reefs to the commerce of the gulf by a ship canal across the peninsula of Florida has resulted in bringing such a project before the public a number of times, and the organization of various corporations with such an object in view. The matter has also had the attention of the general government from time to time and resulted in various investigations and reports.

Without attempting to give all of the corporations organized in this connection, I would state that the Florida Ocean and Gulf Canal company was incorporated under the laws of Florida in 1888, and to which the legislature of 1889 also granted exemption from taxation and other special privileges. Nothing further, however, was done by this company than perhaps some preliminary investigation or location of a route.

During or about the year 1897 the Florida Trans-Peninsular Ship Canal company was incorporated under the laws of Florida, with an authorized capital stock of \$70,000,000. This company proposed to construct a thirty-foot deep canal across the narrowest part of the peninsula, being of such capacity as to accommodate the largest ships afloat. The principal projector of this enterprise was Mr. Robert M. Caffal, president of the company, an English engineer of great energy and ability in connection with the enterprise he prepared a very elaborate report, going very extensively into commercial statistics and the importance of such a canal, showing the feasibility of the organization and the large revenue which might be reasonably expected. Mr. Caffal was very enthusiastic and believed that he had made arrangements which would insure the completion of the

work, but, unfortunately, just before such preliminaries were completed, he died suddenly, and there was no one else to take his place.

The legislature of Florida in 1901 incorporated the Florida Ship Canal company, granting it also exemption from taxation and many other privileges. Up to this time, however, the first spadeful of dirt remains to be moved by any of the various companies which have been organized for the construction of a ship canal across the Florida peninsula. In my own opinion, while the project is a thoroughly feasible one, and I am inclined to think would prove a financial success, it is too great an undertaking for a private enterprise and should be undertaken by the general government.

The government having undertaken the work of constructing the Panama canal, which is of much greater importance, I do not suppose will undertake the Florida canal until the former is completed.

Besides a ship canal, there have various projects with a view of a large canal across the state, connecting the gulf and Atlantic waterways but nothing tangible has developed so far.

The only ship canal company in the state that I am aware of which has succeeded in accomplishing canal work is the Florida Coast Line and Transportation company. This company was incorporated some years ago and has just completed a continuous waterway along the east coast from St. Augustine to the waters of Biscayne Bay, at Miami, a distance of something over 200 miles, a large portion of which, however, consists of natural waterways, but for a considerable part required deepening. I understand that it is proposed by this company to continue its work to connect with the St. Johns river.

OCALA JUNIOR LEAGUE REPORT.

We organized with fifteen members; held thirty devotional meetings; average attendance, Juniors, forty-five; visitors, six; Juniors lead in prayer, gave chalk talks, etc., average members taking part in each service, six; a new leader each time, interest and attention good. Two members lost by removal; five dropped from roll; one Junior added to the church; total membership at present, seventy-one.

Bouquets to sick, 115; floral offerings for the dead, one; delicacies to the sick, ten; visits to the sick, twenty-five; greetings and remembrances to strangers, visitors and sufferers, twenty-five. Sent report and exhibit to state League conference. Have had one Chinese party, two picnics, lawn party, surprise party for the pastor with literary and social features added, one silver tea, one "Fanny Crosby" literary meeting in church, special Thanksgiving service, two missionary meetings, two council meetings, one call meeting, seven business meetings, and a Christmas tree with greetings and remembrances for each Junior and their friends. The music committee has drilled the Juniors in singing at stated times. Junior attend prayer meetings, Sunday school and church services very faithfully. Raised \$3.00 for bible cause; paid individual and League assessment; raised \$4.50 by the sale of "Young J. Allen's Liberating China," and "Fanny Crosby's Life Story," use the "Junior Topics Quarterly" and other helps from the publishing house; read and advertise the Era—have obtained five subscribers to same. Have completed up to school time nearly two books of last year reading course; average attendance at reading circle, fifteen. Are circulating the books of the "Juvenile Missionary Library," and after school intend to resume the study of the reading circle. Each Sabbath a special program is prepared on the subject and reported the day previous to both local papers; other reports are sent to the Advocate and the Era. The services of the League are advertised in prayer meeting, Sunday school and church. Are organizing the "Quiet Hour." Have elected new officers for the new year: enjoying and assisting in the Culpepper meeting, and trusting in His strength, we hope to do much in winning "All for Christ."

Officers for 1908:
President—Carlton Ervin.
First vice president—Etta Moore.
Second vice president—Ruth Lester.

Third vice president—Gladys Martin.

Fourth vice president—Blanche Whaley.

Treasurer—Mamie Pedrick.

Secretary—Lurline Bridges.

Reporter—Rea Ferguson.

Era agent—Dexter Phillips.

SUPERINTENDENT.

THE "UNWRITTEN LAW" OF FLORIDA

The Lake City Index declares it to be the unwritten law that one senator from Florida should live east and one west of the Suwannee river. We beg to inquire, what about that part of the state south of where the Suwannee runs out and has neither east nor west side? That territory is about half the state and ought not to be ruled out by any unwritten or other law.—Tampa Times.

In the "olden time" there were only two judicial and political divisions of Florida. The Suwannee river was the dividing line. All west of that famous stream was west Florida, and east of it was east Florida. Tampa, Miami and Key West were all in east Florida. The Ocala Banner was then called the East Florida Banner. Since which time a middle and a south Florida have been added.

Answer to Correspondents

No, Mr. Allan Rogers is no kin to "Mark." They are merely old friends.

Mr. Johnson, editor of the Times, was recently appointed county judge of Franklin county. He has received his commission and is duly qualified to act in an official capacity. Mr. Johnson received the endorsement of a large number of citizens of the county, many of whom are among our most prominent and influential men. To these gentlemen—severally and jointly—Mr. Johnson expresses his thanks and appreciation for the interest shown by them. Again, gentlemen, we thank you.—Apalachicola Times.

The Atlanta Georgian says that there is a movement on foot in that city for the reformation and rejuvenation of Decatur street, and the property owners vote for "wooden blocks." And this is in the city of Atlanta. Ocala must surely lead the pace, for down here we have nothing but the best vitrified brick. What Ocala does she does up to the hilt. Atlanta ought to send a delegation down here to catch on to how Ocala does things.

Banner ads pay.

FAVORITES SELDOM WIN

No continuous aspirant for the presidency has ever attained that office. Charles C. Pinkney, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Lewis Cass, Stephen A. Douglass, William H. Seward, James G. Blaine, John Sherman—none of them attained his persistent ambition. Neither will William J. Bryan.

No man twice defeated for the presidency ever won that office, or is ever likely to win it. Jefferson and Jackson each survived a single defeat, and the prestige of Cleveland's election in 1884 nominated him in 1892 in spite of the 1888 returns; but a twice-beaten candidate is done for, and his nomination for a third time can spell only disaster.

There is no law of politics which shows less variation than the law of new blood. Neither Madison nor Monroe nor John Quincy Adams ever was a popular idol or had a popular following. Jackson himself was a new-blood candidate when he forged to the front. William Henry Harrison gained the whig nomination over Clay and defeated Van Buren, the legatee of Jackson's popularity.

Polk came virtually out of the wilderness to take the nomination away from Martin Van Buren. Lewis Cass, James Buchanan and John C. Calhoun and the presidency away from Clay.

In the 1852 democratic convention Pierce's name was not mentioned until the thirty-fifth ballot, and at the polls he defeated General Scott. It was Lincoln, the unknown, whom the republicans selected in 1860 in preference to Seward, who was preeminently the "logical candidate." Hayes was hardly a name to the great majority of American voters when he contested the republican nomination from Blaine. Garfield likewise was a compromise candidate. Blaine was beaten by Cleveland who three years previous was scarcely known outside of Buffalo. In 1888 the republican convention thrust aside all its tried leaders to nominate Benjamin Harrison, who had to be introduced to the voters as the grandson of his grandfather; but they won the election with him.

Mr. Bryan himself owed his nomination in 1896 to the fact that he was unknown. Even a negative candidate is often stronger than a man of too positive convictions who has been long before the people, and in consequence is too well known.

John A. Johnson of Minnesota, represents the type of candidate that both parties have persistently sought in periods of party crisis for a century. He has nothing to defend, nothing to apologize for.

In the circumstances in which the democracy now finds itself a party would be stark crazy to ignore a man like John A. Johnson and allow a chronic candidate like Mr. Bryan to gain the nomination by default. A one-man party is an evil second in position only to a one-man government. As Samuel J. Tilden wrote to Daniel Manning in 1884: "Neither the democratic party nor the republic, for

whose future that party is the best guarantee, is now or ever can be dependent upon one man for their successful progress in the path of a noble destiny."—World.

ECCE HOMO!

Less than three months ago the Tallahassee organ of the Broward-Barrs-Stockton ring declared that neither the Times-Union nor the corporations wanted General Gilchrist for governor, because they could not control him, which is true, and yet the ring organs are now preparing to denounce Gilchrist as the corporation candidate. Their object is very apparent; it is "anything to beat Grant," any war-cry to elect Mr. Stockton and to defeat a man who is not allied with any ring or combination and who, it is admitted, cannot be controlled by corporations or individuals.

General Gilchrist's honesty, integrity and patriotism have never been and they cannot be impugned, and he has shown time and again that he is not a time-server, not a seeker of popularity at a sacrifice of conviction or principle, but that he has the courage and the honesty to both declare and to act for what he considers the right.

His support of the Buckman bill and his opposition to the first legislative appropriation for the state fair, both of which threatened a loss of popularity for him, as well as his manly stand on the prohibition question, are a few instances showing what kind of a man he is.

Again, his attitude on the question of pardoning criminals and the elimination of those features of the criminal law that permit the escape from justice of so many criminals, should commend him to the support of all who are desirous of better protection for life and property of Florida. He has the firmness required for a proper and efficient execution of our laws, and he is at the same time blessed with that feeling of humanity and keen sense of justice upon which the guilty as well as the innocent may confidently rely for protection in their rights.

Added to all this is a pure, unselfish devotion to his real interest of the state that constitutes him a genuine patriot, a Floridian born whose object is not graft, self-enrichment or personal power, but the noble ambition to make for himself as governor a name to be respected and honored by Floridians for generations to come. That is his sole ambition, and that, coupled with his recognized ability and manly virtues, should secure him the vote and support of every man who honors high character and loves his state.—Punta Gorda Herald.

A Higher Health Level

"I have reached a higher health level since I began using Dr. King's New Life Pills," writes Jacob Springer, of West Franklin, Maine. "They keep my stomach, liver and bowels working just right." If these pills disappoint you on trial, money will be refunded at Tydings & Co's. drugstore. 25c. m.

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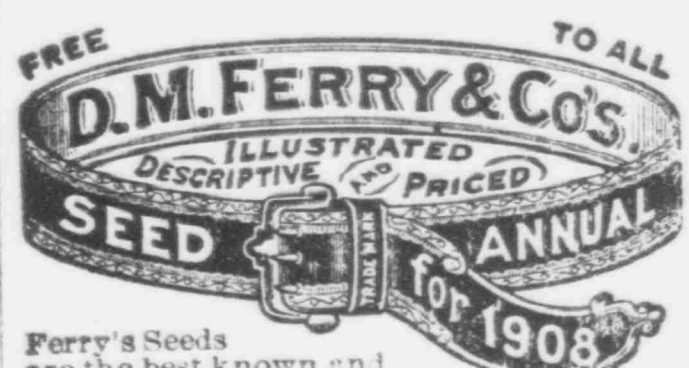
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FOR THE FORM AND COMPLEXION

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